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DAY 3 OF METRO'S LOOK AT IMMIGRATION:
NEWCOMERS BAND TOGETHER TO
CREATE SUPPORT NETWORKS **PAGE 8**



USE METRO AR TO
WATCH NEWCOMERS
TELL 'THE STORY OF US'



Curse of the profane poster

Removing offensive images
proves to be a Herculean task
for border services **PAGE 23**

Melky still out of this world versus Astros

Jays soar to 5-2 victory **PAGE 22**

Mayor Mom right for T.O.?

Metro tests Karen Stintz on
her subway funding plans,
soccer-mom image **PAGE 4**

NEWS
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CRACK CAMPAIGN TEAM

Rob Ford announced Tuesday that disgraced former sprinter Ben Johnson, right, known for his illicit steroid use, was joining his campaign team. Also joining them was Sam Tarasco, left, an actor from Trailer Park Boys, a popular comedy about petty criminals. Asked about Johnson's past, Ford returned to his familiar refrain about forgiving errors: "We've all made mistakes in life. I've supported him from Day 1." He brushed off a question about whether Johnson's presence would remind voters of his own drug use. Head to metronews.ca for the story. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Bars unshackled from conditions on liquor licences

**Policing dropped at
the city's feet.** Council
responds by making it
harder to get licences

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario has informed city officials it will no longer enforce a litany of conditions currently attached to liquor licences in Toronto.

This means nightclubs, lounges and bars, which for years have been forced to manage litter, crowds and noise — among other things — in order to maintain their licences, are now unshackled from those responsibilities.

"Basically, the AGCO is taking eight years of work and walking away from it. They're throwing neighbourhoods to the wolves," said Coun. Adam Vaughan, whose ward includes the Entertainment

District.

A more far-reaching consequence is that the city will make it extremely difficult for new licences to get approved.

The city learned about the enforcement policy change on March 14. At its April 1 meeting, council passed a motion that will require all future applications to go through the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Safe Bars program and for applicants to get a letter of support from the local MPP.

If these conditions aren't met, the city will declare the application "not in the public interest" and it will go on to a hearing.

Council has no choice, said Gord Perks. The reason is that once a licence is finalized, it is attached to that business and can change hands easily. Someone could apply as a mom-and-pop snack shop, get the approval, then sell

Enforcement

It will now be up to Toronto's municipal inspectors to police issues that aren't directly covered under the Liquor Licence Act.

- Councillors say that's a big problem: Inspectors can enforce city bylaws and zoning, but the penalties are minuscule.

the business to someone who wants to open a dance club.

The city prevented this in the past by attaching conditions to the licence, like a requirement to sell food or provide every patron a chair. Now the AGCO says not only will they not be adding those safeguards, but they will ignore previously agreed-upon rules going forward.

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#MayorQs. We're putting your questions to Rob Ford

Metro recently invited Mayor Rob Ford to our office to answer questions from readers. We also invited John Tory, Olivia Chow, Karen Stintz and David Soknacki. They joined us. Ford refused.

His brother and campaign manager, Doug Ford, responded on his behalf: "The Mayor does not speak to anyone owned and operated by the Star." (Metro is owned by Torstar, as is the Toronto Star.)

"Metro has never once put a positive story out about the mayor. So I am sure nothing will be lost (sic) by not sitting down with you folks," Doug Ford wrote.

We're going to put your questions to Ford regardless — because we think your voice is important. Send us your questions and we'll email them to Ford for answers.

We want to thank the candidates who came to Metro and answered our questions — and yours: Tory, Chow, Stintz and Soknacki. You can read their interviews at metronews.ca

Please send your questions to jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca, or tweet them out, hashtagged #MayorQs

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO



Mayor Rob Ford TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Ski association pitches to Dragon's Den

Bruce Robinson, CEO of Canadian Freestyle Ski Association, and Olympic moguls gold medalist Justine Dufour-Lapointe and her sisters, silver medalist Chloe and Olympian Maxime, celebrate after the taping of CBC's Dragon's Den on Tuesday. They asked for \$500,000 a year for four years in exchange for corporate logos on team uniforms, advertising at World Cup events and athlete appearances. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Investigation Yoda's profanity did spark

Beware of the dark side. 'Inappropriate' posters hanging at the Border Services Agency office cause a stir

How did posters bearing swear words manage to remain visible to the public at the Canada Border Services Agency office on Front Street for almost a month without any superiors noticing?

The question swirled through the ranks of dozens of federal bureaucrats last July, as they launched an extensive investigation after Torstar News Service inquired about three profanity-filled images

behind the window at the customer service counter.

The offensive material taped to a credenza was an image of lemurs ordering that "Everyone calm the f—k down!"; a depiction of Star Wars character Yoda saying "Offended you are? A s—t I do not give"; and a piece of paper with "Sometimes it f—ks off completely!" scrawled on it.

Despite Yoda's feelings on the issue, over 300 pages of emails obtained by the Star through a Freedom of Information request show that the managers were quite offended — and likely not very calm, either. Approximately 60 public servants in the GTA and Ottawa were looped in on the great cussing-customers-poster

email chain, the documents show.

What may seem to be a relatively simple task — locating the posters and taking them down — proved to be much more complex for CBSA.

It involved bosses conducting a massive sweep of the premises, taking photos, consulting a floor plan, and checking security camera footage.

It saw public servants in the agency's upper echelons take all day to finesse a meagre response to the Star's questions. And it led to an investigation by two CBSA "chiefs," who interviewed a dozen people in what would be termed by staff an "organizational issue."

CBSA was first contacted

Easter parade

A politician-free zone

Weeks before the annual Toronto Beaches Lions Club Easter Parade, organizers have declared it a "political-free zone," to the surprise and frustration of local officials. Politicians who've traditionally attended were given the boot ahead of the April 20 event because organizers don't have the manpower to "manage them," said parade director Keith Begley. In recent years, Begley said, officials have struggled with politicians wearing signs and bringing flags with partisan colours and generally treating it "as their platform."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Over-reaction?

Liberal Public Safety critic Wayne Easter described the massive search as an "over-reaction," likely sparked because staff have become fearful of reprisals from their "political masters."

- "They're probably thinking 'Golly, if the prime minister knows that there are swear words ... the world's going to fall apart.'"

for comment on this story on Monday, but did not respond by Tuesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 NEWS

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TORONTO VOTES 2014



JESSICA
SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

It was fitting that Karen Stintz — former TTC chair and current candidate for mayor — took the subway to Metro's office last week for her interview. There was a transit delay, though, so she was little late.

"I believe that if you are going to be improving the TTC you need to be a user," said Stintz, responding to a question suggested by Twitter user @beezeeBevin, who wanted to know how often the candidates ride the TTC. "And so I used the TTC to get here today and I'm on subways and streetcars four times a week."

Transit is a key plank of her platform. Stintz is proposing selling off a majority of the city's shares in Toronto Hydro — worth \$1.4 billion — to partially fund a downtown relief line (DRL).

The sale would mean the city forgoes a share of dividend payments worth \$41.9 million in 2013.

City staff estimated the eastern portion of the DRL alone will cost \$3.2 billion.

Twitter user @DDGstyle, asked: "As her current funding plan for the DRL (downtown relief line) is billions short, can she provide details of how she'll fund?"

Stintz has a suggestion.

"What we need to do is put that money into a fund and tell our partners it's there for that purpose," she said, adding she believes the move would prompt the other levels of government to come up with the rest of the cash.

Some questions from Metro readers had more to do with the current administration. Twitter user @JakeMorrow asked: "Your child's teacher smoked crack with felons, drove drunk, and is being investigated for extortion,

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO



KAREN STINTZ

We took questions on social media hashtagged #MayorQs and put them to four of the top mayoral candidates at the Metro office last week. This week, we're publishing the news and analysis. For video highlights, go to metronews.ca.

"I HAVE A TRACK RECORD"

what do you do?"

"So, I, you know, there's no question, when you think about the City of Toronto, and we are a \$10-billion corporation — you'd never have that in the private sector," Stintz

said. "You'd never have a \$10-billion corporation with the chair of the board a man with the record (Ford) has."

Stintz mentions her kids often during the campaign and they came with her when

she registered at city hall.

"Building that city for them is the challenge and the opportunity that I see and that motivates me to run for mayor," she said.

Stintz's family-friendly

campaign rubbed some people the wrong way when she sent out a tweet saying, "I am like you. I have a mortgage, kids, one car, and soccer games."

It prompted criticism on

PLATFORM

Karen Stintz is a former TTC chair and has been Ward 16's councillor since 2003. She:

- Supports building the Scarborough Subway and a relief line.
- Would fund part of the relief line with the proceeds from selling a majority of the city's shares in Toronto Hydro.
- Would appoint a transportation "czar."
- Would implement "hybrid" solution to the eastern Gardiner Expressway, that would lower some of the Expressway but maintain its connection to the Don Valley Parkway

line from people who didn't identify with that middle-class soccer mom life. Twitter user @LadySnarksalot spoke to that when she asked: "I'm single, rent and had Metropass go up by \$35 in 10 years for less reliable service. How can you speak for me?"

"No matter where we live in the city we have financial pressures," Stintz said. "We juggle jobs and getting home and social activities. So I experience that as well in my life. What I want to do is make the experience of getting around the city easier, recognizing that people have all kinds of time commitments and financial commitments, as do I."

A few people had questions for Stintz about getting past partisanship and working with others at city hall. In her response, she called opponent Olivia Chow "an NDP mayor."

"Whoever becomes mayor needs to build enough of a coalition to get their agenda passed," Stintz said. "I have a track record at council working across the political spectrum."

Stintz's challenge

Changing course a sticky issue



MATT
ELLIOTT
metronews.ca

I remember when I first thought Karen Stintz might make a good mayor. It was Feb. 8, 2012, the day she

led Toronto City Council to ignore the all-subway transit fantasies pushed by Mayor Rob Ford and return to the fully funded Transit City light rail plan. On that day, she was principled, strategic and unwavering. Exactly what you'd want a mayor to be.

But a lot has happened since then. Of late, on issues like the Scarborough subway and island airport expansion, Stintz is on record publicly endorsing one

position before adopting another.

So when Stintz came to the Metro Toronto newsroom for an interview, we asked her about that, reading a question about her change in position on the Scarborough subway from @MrIanMcIntyre.

She didn't back away from the question. Instead, she pointed to how a shifting funding situation caused her to rethink Scarborough transit. Then

she went further, and cast her willingness to change positions on issues as an asset, not a liability.

"At city hall, when circumstances change, you're required to come back and look at the new circumstances," she told us, adding that "part of being a mayor is being able to build consensus and being able to look at new information in a new way and say, 'OK, have things changed? Do we need to think of things

in a new way?'"

I'd agree that a big part of being a successful mayor is building consensus and sometimes compromising. But while a willingness to change course may be an important attribute in the committee rooms of city hall, it's not something that necessarily plays well on the campaign trail, where the "flip-flopper" label is hard to shake.

Which is a shame, because her campaign has put

together some interesting policies so far.

The notion of hiring a transportation czar is worth exploring, and her plan to build the relief subway line at least has some funding behind it with a partial sale of Toronto Hydro.

The same can't be said for some of her opponents.

But I fear Stintz's challenge won't be her policies. It'll be convincing voters that she'll stick to them.

End of the student office volunteer?

Safety. With schools getting cameras and buzzers, some are questioning making kids responsible for admitting visitors

They answer the school phone, greet visitors, track down staff, do light filing, even scrounge around for ice packs or Band-Aids when kids need them.

But the long-standing, sought-after lunchtime office volunteer jobs given to elementary students are being cut or modified in some boards because of a provincewide program tightening security in schools.

Although seen as a way to give students responsibility — while allowing school secretar-

ies uninterrupted breaks — the position is now under scrutiny because of the Safe Welcome Program, which provided funds for schools to install security cameras and buzz-in systems and keep their doors locked, in the wake of deadly school shootings in the U.S.

"I noticed in a couple of schools, parents raised the issue of kids adjudicating who is coming into the school or not," said Toronto Catholic trustee John Del Grande.

"It's also a busy time, when parents are coming in and so on. Should we really be putting kids in the position where they are judging the people coming in and out of the school?"

Just last week, the board voted to spend \$338,569 to hire adults to take on the lunchtime job starting this fall in schools that have only one full-time secretary. While the plan is

still in the early stages, superintendent Rory McGuckin said for students, it means the office position will change.

In February, the York Region public board put an end to student office volunteers over similar concerns. The Peel public board says the practice is common, but staff buzz in visitors — which is also the case in the Dufferin-Peel, York Catholic and Durham Catholic boards.

Toronto mom Diane Pierik's 11-year-old son Matthew has enjoyed volunteering for the past two years at his Catholic school, alongside friend Jackson Cooksey.

"I have often wondered about the safety issue — I know the office helpers are in charge of opening the door," she said. However, "even though it's lunchtime, there's always an adult around. If they really had questions, they could grab



Jackson Cooksey, left, and Matthew Pierik, student office lunchtime volunteers at Canadian Martyrs Catholic School.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

somebody.

"It would be unfortunate to lose (the program) because it gives them a good dose of re-

sponsibility," she said.

Michael Barrett of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association called it an "un-

intended consequence" of the Safe Welcome Program that "many schools are still working through." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Full steam a-head for shipping season

Port of Toronto Harbour Master Angus Armstrong "crowns" Captain Jacek Kurpiel with a nearly 200-year-old silk and beaver top hat at the Toronto Port Authority's 153rd Beaver Hat Ceremony Tuesday to welcome the M/V Lubie, the first ocean vessel in 2014 to dock in Toronto. The ceremony dates back to 1861 to mark the start of shipping season. **CONTRIBUTED**



Citizenship. No harm in axing 'repugnant' oath to Queen, court told

Allowing would-be citizens to opt out of a "repugnant" oath to the Queen would cause no harm and allow them to retain their sense of integrity, Ontario's top court heard Tuesday.

In calling for the citizenship oath to be struck down, a trio of longtime permanent residents argued the requirement is discriminatory and violates their religious and conscientious beliefs.

"Someone who wants to be a citizen is being forced to say, 'I support the constitutional monarchy,'" their lawyer Peter

Rosenthal told the Court of Appeal.

"How repugnant must that be to someone who's a staunch anti-monarchist?"

The trio — Israeli, Irish and Jamaican citizens — say they would be happy to take an oath to Canada, but not to the Queen, who they call a relic that represents privilege and lack of equality.

For its part, the government argues citizenship is voluntary and the three are misinterpreting the oath.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Discrimination alleged

- Native-born Canadians do not have to take any oath, hence the argument that permanent residents are discriminated against on the basis of nationality or origin.
- Australia, also a constitutional monarchy like Canada, did away with its pledge to the Queen 20 years ago, the court heard.

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Medicine. As science grows, will noses too?

In a London hospital, scientists are growing noses, ears and blood vessels.

The work was showcased Tuesday as Mayor Boris Johnson announced a plan to attract more labs to do cutting-edge health and science research in the area.

Researchers hope they will soon be able to transplant many types of body parts, including what would be the world's first nose made partly from stem cells.

"It's like making a cake," said Alexander Seifalian, the scientist leading the effort. "We just use a different kind of oven." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Dr. Michelle Griffin poses with a synthetic ear in London on March 31. **MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sit back, relax and let the wellness flow through you

IV league. Vancouver opens a posh new clinic where customers enjoy an intravenous dose of vitamin therapy



EMILY JACKSON
Metro in Vancouver

With leather reclining chairs, soft lighting, indie music and flat-screen TVs, passersby might mistake this Vancouver business for a typical lounge or spa.

But they do a double-take when they see plastic bags hanging from IV stands dripping fluids into customers' veins.

Welcome to the IV Wellness Boutique, the first dedicated intravenous vitamin therapy lounge in the city — and perhaps the country.



Patrons enjoy IV vitamin therapy at the IV Wellness Boutique in Vancouver. **TWITTER: @THEIVWELLNESS**

While naturopathic physicians around the world provide vitamin drips to help relieve ailments from stress to exhaustion to hangovers — Rihanna made them famous when she posted a picture of her "party girl drip" on Twitter in 2012 — the co-owners of

this clinic believe it's the first with a social, spa-like atmosphere in Canada.

"We tried to take the clinical feel out of a clinic; we tried to make it really beautiful," naturopathic doctor Heidi Rootes said Tuesday. "We want people to feel comfortable and

What's in the solution?

- Sugar, saline or sterile water base
- Preservative-free vitamins, minerals and/or amino acids
- For example: vitamin C, B, calcium, magnesium (depending on the treatment)

relaxed."

A typical 45-minute treatment costs \$150 out of pocket, or may be covered under extended medical care plans. It must be administered by a physician or a nurse practitioner certified in the practice.

That may not seem relaxing for those who don't like needles, but "that's the biggest stigma, the whole idea of intravenous," said Rootes, who has administered the treatment for eight years.

Rootes and co-owner Robin Szakacs want to focus on health benefits including energy boosts and back-pain relief instead of the party cure, popular in Las Vegas, L.A. and Miami. (Not to mention in Europe and Asia, where vitamin drips have long been mainstream.)

"Sure, if you put anybody that's hungover and dehydrated on an IV, they're going to feel better," Rootes said. "Sometimes I feel like that kind of cheapens what we're doing, but that's not our focus."

The risks are minimal, Rootes said. As with any needle, there's a risk of infection. People are pre-screened before treatment and the procedure is not recommended for those with kidney or heart disease.

Clientele include marathon runners, both before and after the race, people coming to and from yoga, and 80-year-olds with diabetes.

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Day of Pink

MORE THAN JUST COLOUR COMMENTARY



MICHAËLLE JEAN
27th governor general and commander-in-chief of Canada, co-chair of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation

Four years ago, my 11-year-old daughter Marie-Eden came home from school and started telling me — fast-paced, enthusiastic as can be — about the Day of Pink campaign. “You know, Mom,” she said, “I need to take action when someone is not being treated right. I need to act, even if I’m not the one directly affected.”

Marie-Eden seemed to have understood everything: the damage of discrimination, the importance of standing up to bullying, how to take concrete action, to make a difference.

I was floored. As you know, I grew up in Haiti, in a country “draped in barbed wire,” to use the

words of my uncle, the poet René Dépestre. Under the dictatorship of Papa Doc, my family taught me that indifference to the predicament of others was not an option; that having a social conscience was paramount.

And here was my child, now in Canada, teaching me the same lesson.

Since that time, I have participated in the Day of Pink and met the Jer’s Vision team. I have seen the transformative power of their work. I have seen how children and teens have gained a vocabulary, new ways to act and new tactics to show solidarity with the vulnerable. The campaign is working. And that’s why I believe in the urgent spread of this kind of intervention.

Bullying, harassment, prejudice and abuse are still rampant. Today, suicide is still the second-leading cause

of death for people aged 10 to 24 in Canada — just behind accidents. And it remains the leading cause of death among sexual-minority youth.

That is why I have chosen to work through the Michaëlle Jean Foundation on what we have dubbed the 4th Wall Youth Solidarity Project. With the Art Gallery of Ontario, Jer’s Vision and 50 human rights and health organizations, we are encouraging Canadians to show vulnerable youth from Canada’s Two-Spirit and LGBTQ communities that they are not alone; that we care; that we want them to feel included.

Six lucky young artists will be awarded a cash prize, a free trip to Toronto and an opportunity to have their work featured in a high-profile exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario, to mark World Pride 2014.

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Nations within a nation



The First Filipino Baptist Church of Toronto is a key gathering spot for the rapidly growing Filipino community in Canada's largest city. DAVE STARRETT/FOR METRO

Community

Enclaves booming in Canada

Call it Little Italy, Chinatown or Little Manila.

No matter the name, ethnic enclaves are important to the immigrant communities they support — and the cities they're in.

For the cities themselves, traditionally large urban ones like Toronto and Vancouver, enclaves help bring in tourists looking for an authentically exotic bite or a first-hand brush with another culture.

And, in many cases, those same tourists help newcomers succeed by frequenting the businesses where they work.

"Enclaves are very lively and they help support immigrant life in a number of different ways," said Dr. Sandeep Agrawal, from the University of Alberta.

In recent years, enclaves have started branching into the suburbs of major cities, and most of Canada now has enclaves of various shapes and sizes.

If you ask Agrawal, there's no real downside to that. But, enclaves have, in the past, been cast in a bad light.

A 2003 Statistics Canada report "measured ethnic enclaves as part of an isolation index, meaning those who live in enclaves are isolated and that enclaves are bad," Agrawal said.

A followup paper "debunked that myth," showing that the communities actually help people adjust and, eventually, thrive in Canada.

Another myth is that the words "enclave" and "ghetto" can be used interchangeably.

"Ghetto is an old word which is based on racial and economic exclusion," Dr. Mohammad Qadeer of Queen's University said. "A ghetto is also a large concentration of poverty."

"Enclaves are not ghettos."

DAVE LANGFORD/METRO



Immigrants banding together. Tight-knit communities offer support to new arrivals



DAVE LANGFORD
Metro in London, Ont.

Cely Velez was 39 when she came to Toronto in 1997, leaving her home in the Philippines behind.

"My mom is here and she was not that young anymore," Velez said, adding that her lone sister lives in California with six children. "So for me, I wanted to be the one responsible for my mom's care."

Velez is the business administrator at the First Filipino Baptist Church of Toronto. Sitting in the heart of the city with a congregation of about 410 people, the church is a focal point for Toronto's burgeoning Filipino community — the fastest growing enclave of immigrants in the nation, one expert said.

Dr. Sandeep Agrawal, a specialist in ethnic enclaves at the University of Alberta, said recent years have seen a big influx of immigrants from the Philippines, "even superseding (those from) India and China."

A 2011 National Household Survey showed 662,600 persons of Filipino descent now live in Canada.

Agrawal said the Filipino enclave (Bathurst and St. Clair up to Eglinton Ave.) is replacing one of Canada's oldest communities — the Jewish enclaves in central Toronto.

Dr. Mohammad Qadeer, professor emeritus of urban

and regional planning at Queen's University in Kingston, said there are two dimensions to ethnic enclaves.

The first is a "residential concentration of people" and the other is a combination of various facilities, commercial establishments and churches, which together comprise an ethnic enclave.

"The most concentrated residential groups are Jews and then Italians and then Portuguese," Qadeer said.

Ultimately, the communities within communities help more established immigrants support those who are newer to Canada.

Velez falls into the second category of enclaves — her work and personal life both revolving around the First Filipino Baptist Church.

"It's always church-related events," Velez said. "We usually go into each other's homes. That's very, very important for us."

Where we come from

2010

36,580 people

Philippines

30,251 people

India

30,196 people

China

2011

34,911 people

Philippines

28,695 people

China

24,964 people

India

2012

33,018 people

China

32,747 people

Philippines

28,943 people

India

COURTESY GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

THE STORY OF US: IMMIGRATION IN CANADA, TOLD IN FIVE PARTS

Day 1

Change and effect

1

Day 2

What Canada wants vs. what it gets

2

Day 3

Where we come from, where we go

3

Day 4

Happy times, hard times

4

Day 5

The future and beyond

5

Online

Live the stories of three immigrants in our five-part video series at metronews.ca



Pistorius testifies at trial: 'I sat over Reeva and I cried'

South Africa. An emotional Pistorius recounts details of girlfriend's murder

A subdued Oscar Pistorius on Tuesday described dinner at home, chatting and looking at cellphone photos with Reeva Steenkamp on the last night of her life. Then he erupted in anguished howls and heaving sobs while testifying at his murder trial about the moments when he says he realized he shot his girlfriend through a closed toilet door.

The spectacle of what appeared to be a tormented man highlighted the drama of the runner's inspirational rise and sudden fall. The South African double-amputee captured the



Oscar Pistorius' sister Aimee, right, cries as he testifies in court.
KIM LUDBROOK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world's attention when he successfully fought for permission to run in the 2012 Olympics on his prostheses. The next year,

he was facing charges for killing the woman he said he loved.

The court in Pretoria, the South African capital, adjourned because of the athlete's breakdown.

"I sat over Reeva and I cried," Pistorius said, telling how he broke open the stall door in his bathroom in the early hours of Feb. 14, 2013 to discover his bloodied girlfriend slumped in the cubicle.

Pistorius said in statements that he shot Steenkamp after mistaking her for an intruder in his bathroom. The athlete said he felt fearful and vulnerable as he moved to the bathroom, walking only on his stumps.

In earlier testimony Tuesday, Pistorius denied three other charges against him relating to firing a gun in public on two occasions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Irish visit full of symbolism

Irish President Michael D. Higgins walks alongside Queen Elizabeth at Windsor Castle on Tuesday. Higgins marks Ireland's first official visit to Britain since its independence, a symbolic gesture for the two countries with a troubled history. PETER MACDIARMID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protests

Tensions rise in Eastern Ukraine

Ukraine's government struggled to stay in control of the country's eastern regions as tensions flared Tuesday in three cities.

While the government managed to recapture its regional headquarters and detain dozens of pro-Russian protesters in one city, it said "radicals" were keeping 60 people hostage and threatening them in another city.

Earlier Tuesday, authorities regained control over a government building in Kharkiv. Protesters were evicted and dozens detained. In Donetsk, a city further south, protesters dug in for their third day at regional headquarters they captured on Sunday before declaring a parallel government.

All three cities are in Ukraine's east, where hostility is strong toward the government that took power in February after the ouster of Kremlin-friendly President Viktor Yanukovich. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Something to squawk about: Cup cracks \$36M



The Meiyintang "chicken cup" from the Chinese Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) is displayed during a press conference in Hong Kong on Tuesday. VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Chicken cup'. Small white porcelain piece from Ming Dynasty lays record profit at Sotheby's auction

A Shanghai collector bought a rare Ming Dynasty cup that's touted as the "holy grail" of China's art world for \$36 million US at a Hong Kong auction on Tuesday, smashing the previous world record price for Chi-

nese porcelain.

Sotheby's said Liu Yiqian was the winning bidder for the small white cup, which measures just 8 centimetres in diameter and is more than 500 years old. The vessel is known as a "chicken cup" because it's decorated with a rooster and hen tending to their chicks.

It was made during the reign of the Ming Dynasty's Chenghua Emperor, who ruled from 1465 to 1487. Sotheby's said there are only 17 such cups in existence, with four in

private hands and the rest in museums.

"This is really the holy grail when it comes to Chinese art," said Nicholas Chow, Sotheby's deputy chairman for Asia.

For such a prized item, bidding was limited to a handful of wealthy collectors and when the winning bid was hammered down at \$32.2 million, the standing-room only crowd broke into applause. The auction house's commission brought the total to \$36.1 million. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

American Airlines

Fly for free with miles ... sort of

If you use miles to get a free ticket on American Airlines, you may have to pay to check that suitcase.

American and US Airways announced changes Tuesday to their policies on checked-bag fees and redeeming miles for free flights. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Copyright

Hollywood studios sue Megaupload

Hollywood studios are suing the defunct file-sharing website Megaupload and its founder, Kim Dotcom, claiming the website facilitated massive copyright infringement.

The lawsuit was filed Monday in federal court in Alexandria, Va., seeking unspecified damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greenpeace

P&G changes palm oil policy after protests

The Procter & Gamble Co. has updated its policy on palm oil following high-profile protests by Greenpeace at its Cincinnati headquarters. The world's largest consumer products company said Tuesday it has adopted a "no-deforestation" policy for its palm oil supply. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Driving while texting is six times more dangerous than driving while intoxicated, according to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Administration Safety Administration; in B.C., where I live, there were 81 deaths in 2012 from distracted driving, compared to 55 from impaired driving.

I can keep throwing stats at you. But I should stop now and concentrate on my driving.

And so should you, if this morning's commute is any indication. Here's just a sample of the things we did in traffic today:

While travelling at least 60 clicks an hour, a woman in a



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Range Rover had the visor down and appeared to be putting on makeup while talking to her friend on her handheld. As far as I can tell, the Pomeranian in her lap was doing the driving.

A line of people stopped at the red light appeared to be deep in prayer, so deep that the light changed and nobody noticed. Their faces were bathed in a strange, blue glow.

Soccer mom policed a van-load of kids while talking on her handheld. Yikes.

And it was breakfast time in the fast lane: muffins, very hot coffee, lip-searing burritos and sandwiches, assorted Tupperware from home, apples oranges bananas, oh my.

Any one of these distractions has a well-documented effect on your attention span. Yet we continue to drive through a multi-tasking medley of contortions. Our cars do double duty as kitchens, bathrooms, media centres and bedrooms (pets included).

What's interesting is that with the exception of handheld

devices, most of this nonsense is not cut-and-dry illegal.

"Excuse me ma'am, but that's a \$167 fine for driving with a Pomeranian in your lap. You're lucky it wasn't a Great Dane ..."

Nevertheless, it's dawning on governments that unless they do something soon, we won't make it through rush hour.

In British Columbia, which has some of the toughest drunk driving laws in North America, the attorney general is aghast that, with one-third the population, it has more distracted driving deaths than Ontario.

Maybe that's because Ontario has already jacked up its distracted driving fine from \$155 to \$280. In an amusing touché, it goes to \$500 if you contest it and lose, which should clear up a lot of nuisance court cases.

B.C. will probably raise its fines soon, and may even attach points to licences. Yet you have to wonder if enforcement is the answer. The province issued 51,000 tickets for distracted driving last year, but if this morning's circus on wheels is any indication, no one has noticed.

Their "minds" are elsewhere.

ZOOM

Seeing is revealing



COURTESY LIU BOLIN/SCREAM GALLERY

Artist blends into his surroundings

Glance at it and you'll see nothing remarkable, but take a closer look and you can spot the figure of a man standing in the background. Behold Liu Bolin, the globally-renowned Chinese artist gifted with the uncanny knack to use body paint to blend into any backdrop. His first solo exhibition in the U.K., *The Heroic Apparition*, is open at London's *Scream Gallery* until May 10. **METRO**

Artist's viewpoint



world. I chose to merge with the environment."

Liu Bolin, 41, artist based in Beijing
At a recent TED conference, Bolin said: "By making myself invisible, I try to question the inter-cancelling relationship between our civilization and its development."

"Each one chooses his or her path to come in contact with the external

A silent protest against the state

While his camouflage technique speaks of eccentricity, Bolin's message behind his artwork is in fact solemn and political in tone — a "silent protest against the state" for Chinese authorities' crackdown on artists. "I am standing, but there is a silent protest, the protest against the environment for the survival, the protest against the state," he said in a statement.

METRO

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MetroTube

Subway ride gets riled by a rat



ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

Now, you may be tempted to dismiss the old saw that New Yorkers are a hardy bunch after watching this clip of a subway car packed with such supposedly indomitable souls losing their minds over a single wayward rat. But don't be so swift to judge. Because upon closer inspection, you'll notice that there isn't a single pant leg tucked into a single sock anywhere on this supposedly panic-filled car. We bet you don't feel so tough now. Those New Yorkers, man. Resolute.



GARY STEVENS/Flickr



SCENE 2

Taken with a bird's-eye view

Feathers in filmdom's cap. Rio 2's macaw Tyler Blu latest bird to vie for a perch in Hollywood's avian pecking order



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Hollywood's two most famous birds must be Donald Duck and Woody Woodpecker. Between them they've starred in almost 300 films.

This weekend Donald and Woody are joined by Tyler Blu Gunderson, a rare male Spix's macaw, voiced by Jesse Eisenberg making his second big screen appearance in Rio 2. He's joined by a cast of fine feathered friends, including a yellow canary (Jamie Foxx), a rapping red-crested cardinal (will.i.am) and a sulphur-crested cockatoo (Jemaine Clement), as they leave their home in Rio de Janeiro for the Amazon rainforest.

The colourful co-stars in Rio 2 are animated, which makes them a much more agreeable lot than Tippi Hedren's castmates in her most famous movie. In the Alfred Hitchcock film The Birds, she plays a wealthy socialite visiting Bodega Bay in Northern California when hundreds of ravens, seagulls and pigeons begin viciously attacking the townsfolk.

Some of the birds were props, but many of them were all too real. Actors with ground meat and anchovies daubed on them to entice the birds escaped with nips and scratches but Hedren took the worst of it during the shooting of the movie's famous at-



Tyler Blu Gunderson, voiced by Jesse Eisenberg, has his second big screen outing this weekend in Rio 2. CONTRIBUTED

tic scene.

She had been told mechanical birds would be used in the sequence that sees her trapped in a small room while birds attack her. When she arrived at the shoot she saw a cage built around the set and realized the plan had changed.

For a week, real birds were thrown at her by stagehands. Pecked and scratched by birds attached to her by elastic bands she screamed

and sobbed as one of them gouged her eye. It was such a traumatic sight, Cary Grant, who dropped by the set to say hello, said, "You're one brave lady."

It's no wonder Hedren chose Marnie, and not The Birds, as her favourite Hitchcock leading role.

As distressing as the shoot for The Birds might have been, the movie is now considered a classic.

That can't be said for a

film inspired by Hitchcock's avian terror.

Birdemic: Shock and Terror director James Nguyen says the inspiration for his movie dates back to 2006 when he saw a flock of seagulls flying toward him at Half Moon Bay south of San Francisco. The sight reminded him of Hitchcock's film, but he thought, "What if I make a movie where instead of seagulls and crows, it's birds of prey? There's nothing more shock-

ing than eagles and vultures."

The self-financed film took four years to finish and laid an egg in theatres before it became a cult hit as one of the worst films ever made.

When asked what Hitchcock would have thought of Birdemic, Nguyen told Empireonline.com, "I think Mr. Hitchcock would forgive a lot of its imperfections and say, 'James, you did what you could. Do another one and try to do it better.'"

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Actor living dream

Tye Sheridan. At 17, this young thespian has already starred opposite a handful of Oscar winners



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Tye Sheridan may be one of the busiest teenagers in film. After an attention-grabbing start in 2011's *The Tree of Life* and 2012's *Mud*, 17-year-old Sheridan now stars in Joe — David Gordon Green's off-beat, darkly comic tale about a teenager (Sheridan) who befriends a surly ex-con (Nicolas Cage). Plus, Sheridan has four more films in the can, all set to come out this year. Somebody's a bit of an overachiever.

You got to take this film to a bunch of international festivals last fall. How did the reactions differ?

It's weird watching it with a foreign audience because they don't get a lot of the American humour. It's not just this demented, dark drama. When we screened in Venice or Deauville (I can't remember which), I was sitting on the second balcony, so I could see down into the audience and there was a group of old ladies that came to see the film and when [Nicolas Cage] beats up the wino, six old ladies just get up and walk out of the theatre. It was kind of funny to watch.

What are you looking for in future roles?

I don't know, anything that gives me a challenge. Anything that I have passion for, that I love the material. I worked on a film called *Grass*



Tye Sheridan stars in the darkly comic tale *Joe*, alongside Nicolas Cage.
CONTRIBUTED

Stains last summer with a writer-director named Kyle Wilamowski, and he's been working on this for, like, eight or nine years, and this is his first feature. It's always fun to work with someone like that because you know they've put their heart and soul into the project. I love doing small, independent stuff because this is what people really care about. And I just did a film called *Dark Places*. It's an adaptation of a novel by Gillian Flynn. My character is convicted of murdering his family, so it's going to be really dark. He's kind of satanic, too.

Is there ever any consideration about your age as far as what subject matter is OK and what isn't?

You know, that's one of the coolest things about acting. I think, that you can be someone you're not. I mean, that's not you on the screen. Some of these characters are nothing like me. I'm not violent at all. I've never been in a fight. And it's like, every film that I've been in I've gotten into some kind of fight. It's cool because it gives you a challenge and you get

to experience things that you normally wouldn't in your own personal life.

And it tells you a lot about how people perceive you. Yeah, definitely (laughs).

You've already worked alongside the likes of Nicolas Cage, Matthew McConaughey, Brad Pitt. Any dream co-stars still on your list?

I want to work with James Franco, just because he's such a mystery man, you know? What is he? Is he a director, a writer, an actor? An artist? He's a cool guy.

One to watch

- **Born.** November 11, 1996 in Elkhart, Texas.
- **First feature film.** *Tree of Life*, where he starred alongside heavyweights Brad Pitt and Sean Penn.
- **Next up.** Tye Sheridan just finished a film called *Dark Places* with Charlize Theron and Chloe Grace Moretz.

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Lindsay Lohan ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Perhaps LiLo should lie low and not go to Coachella with her mom

Lindsay Lohan insists she's back on the straight and narrow with her sobriety, despite slipping and having "one glass of wine" shortly after her last stint in rehab. But folks in her inner circle think her plans to attend the rowdy Coachella music festival in the California desert — especially with party-happy mom Dina Lohan along for the ride — is a terrible, terrible idea, according to Radar Online.

"Lindsay should not be going to Coachella. And having Dina with her isn't really making anyone feel comfortable that she will be a good chaperone. It's a big alcohol and drug festival and it is the last place that Lindsay should be," a source says.

"Lindsay swears that she'll stay sober, but Coachella is a huge party and there are going to be so many temptations for her. Everyone is really worried about her."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Scarlett adds nickname insult to sexy inquiry injury

Whatever you do, never call Scarlett Johansson "ScarJo" to her face, as the Captain America: the Winter Soldier star can't stand the nickname.

"I associate that name with, like, a pop star," she tells Glamour magazine,

saying that the nickname "sounds tacky. It's lazy and flippant. There's something insulting about it."

That's not the only grievance she airs in the interview, as Johansson also takes on the long-standing double standards of Hollywood for men and women.

"Actresses get stupid questions asked of them all the time, like, 'How do you stay sexy?' or 'What's your sexiest quality?' All these ridiculous things you would never ask a man."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Sheeran doesn't get why every girl crazy 'bout this ginger-haired man

Soft-spoken ginger singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran doesn't mind fans going nuts over him, even if he doesn't quite understand their passion. "I don't see myself as a sex symbol, but if other people do, I'm not going to complain," he tells Billboard magazine.

"I'm a singer that you never want to see shirtless. No one does! I haven't got a six-pack or pecs." When informed that there clearly are some Sheeran fans who would be up for him taking off his shirt, he shrugs. "To



Ed Sheeran

each their own," he says.

Do-uelling chanteuses flash locks in clashing chartreuses



Katy Perry, left, and Lady Gaga



So, slow gossip days mean round-ups of new celebrity hairstyles! We know, we know: This job is exciting.

First up, Maggie Gyllenhaal, who debuted a blonde pixie cut at the Cannes Film Festival on Monday night. The choice was a bit more conventional than Katy

Perry's. She showed off her new 'do on Instagram Tuesday with the tag line "Slime green for spring, duh."

Speaking of green, Lady Gaga had a bit of the hue in her wild hair while closing down New York City's Roseland Ballroom on Monday night.

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God gave rock 'n' roll to you

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The painted rockers are getting inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, so why not celebrate with a tour of some KISS-themed attractions?

STEVE GOW

life@metronews.ca

On Thursday, one of the biggest rock acts in the world is finally being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

But if fans of KISS can't make it to Brooklyn's Barclays Center for the ceremony, not to worry — there are many other ways to honour the face-painted performers whose career has spanned four decades. Here are a few other innovative KISS attractions in North America:

Plaster Caster

Niagara Falls may boast brilliant views of one of the natural wonders of the world but if you want waxy replicas of relentless guitar gods, Rock Legends Wax Museum at the top of carnivalesque Clifton Hill presents plaster casters of KISS as one of its most sought-after spectacles.

Calling Dr. Love

There are countless wedding chapels in Las Vegas but only one offers a fire-breathing Gene Simmons impersonator to stand as your Sinister Minister.

The Hotter Than Hell



When you hit Rock Bottom with your gambling, it might be time to hit up the KISS-themed mini golf course in Las Vegas. CONTRIBUTED

Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas features concert-atmosphere nuptials on a KISS replicated stage (complete with fog machines), concert ticket invites and a live webcast. Even the real Gene Simmons has popped in and joined newlyweds as a witness.

Visit kissweddingchapel.com.

Walk the Rock

Sure, Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood is

where fans can compare their handprints in cement with those of Tinseltown's biggest actors, but a few miles away at Guitar Center's Rockwalk on Sunset Boulevard, hard rock devotees can measure their mitts against their favourite KISS member. Step inside the Hollywood landmark and check out Paul Stanley's "Iceman" guitar and boots on display. Visit rockwalk.com.



KISS even has their own Arena Football League team in L.A. CONTRIBUTED

Gods of gridiron

Earlier this month the team Los Angeles KISS debuted in the Arena Football League. Not just an incidental moniker, the squad is co-owned by Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley and they're not afraid to show it in uniforms designed with flames and the band's iconic



logo. Games will even feature rock bands stoking up lulls in play ensuring that the Gridiron Gods of L.A. rock 'n' roll all night ... and party every game. See lakissfootball.com.

Putt it Out Loud

Just when mini-golf couldn't get any more exciting, now at the KISS by Monster Mini Golf in Las Vegas, fans can play golf on a well-designed glow-in-the-dark 18-hole course while hits like Detroit Rock City

blast over loudspeakers.

Who doesn't want to ace a hole-in-one by putting up the extended tongue of an enormous Gene Simmons head? Surprisingly, it's actually popular for kids' birthday parties. Visit monstermini-golf.com/kiss.

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Bucket List



Bermuda

Get a head start on summer — and your tan — with a quick escape to Bermuda. May-June is the perfect time to visit. So often confused with Bahamas and Barbados, Bermuda is a connect-the-dot maze of islands in the Atlantic Ocean, on the same latitude as South Carolina. With a temperate climate, as opposed to a tropical one, this paradise is more than just the baggy shorts and big onions it is commonly associated with. Coral walls and white roofs mimic the sand and clouds, while left-hand drive and roundabouts remind you of the island's British roots, as does the buttoned-down vibe, reminiscent of the colonial past. WestJet flies non-stop from Toronto in three hours, often for under \$400 return (taxes included). Visit GoToBermuda.com. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

Real-life tours.

Founder of G Adventures talks about authentic tripping and the positive impacts it can have



ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Last month, my spouse and I took our 18-year-old nephew, Jake, to Kenya on a safari camping trip with G Adventures.

I'm sure we saw every possible animal from zebras and hippos to lions and leopards. Our merry band of fellow campers included people aged 18 to 73 from all corners of the earth.

In addition to the spot-on logistics, I was impressed with how we connected to the communities in which we travelled during the tour. I asked author and G Adventures founder Bruce Poon Tip how he made this Canadian



From left, chief experience officer Joseph and drivers Richard and Walter on a G Adventures safari camping trip in Kenya. Part of the company's mandate is to create jobs for locals in the areas in which it operates. **LOREN CHRISTIE/METRO**

company into a global success.

What makes G Adventures different?

We believe in wealth distribution by creating jobs and taking people into unique parts of the world, areas that would not normally benefit from tourism — staying with

a nomadic tribe in Mongolia, a rainforest community in the Amazon or on a ranch in Iceland. We aim to create jobs and tourism benefits in areas that wouldn't normally get to see that. We are a true global travel brand. People from 160 countries booked trips with us in the last 18 months.

Your vision is very clear.

We're about changing people's lives and creating happiness and community on a global scale. Any company can do it, we just choose travel as the vehicle to deliver our core values. We have invented departments like G force that travel and do leadership

and purpose camps all over the world. I have people in Africa, Asia. They all have to buy into a specific set of core values. So we need to recruit differently, train differently. We have to build a business model around achieving happiness. I spend a lot of my time rallying our people to deliver our service message.

Who do you cater to?

We are a company that has relied on psychographics versus demographics. Today people suspend their beliefs and go to an all-inclusive compound or go on a cruise, yet when they come home they recycle, use low wattage light bulbs or eat organic. While on vacation they forget to care about the country they are in.

Our travellers have a different mindset. They want holiday time to represent the way they live their life and to have a positive impact on the world. If you want the comforts of home, please stay at home. Watch Africa on TV. Why not feel like you are in another country?



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Las Vegas loves quaint home cooking

From swank cuisine to shrimp and grits.

Tourists sick of high-end fare are flocking to a simple diner with a Southern touch

You might not expect to find farm-to-table dining in Las Vegas. But that's exactly why tourists are lining up at a rundown corner a few blocks near the old casinos in the town's seedy core.

It takes visitors arriving by cab a few minutes to locate the nouveau diner Eat on the ground floor of a motel-style apartment complex that rents rooms by the month and looks like a place where a down-on-his-luck crime caper hero might live.

But this is Las Vegas' first neighbourhood restaurant with an emphasis on freshness and locally sourced ingredients. Eat has been a favourite among locals since



Eat sits on the ground floor of a nondescript motel-style apartment complex. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

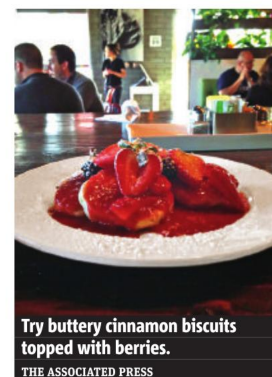
it opened two years ago, when more than 100 people lined up to get their first taste. Chef and owner Natalie Young temporarily closed the restaurant that first night to regroup.

She conceived the restaurant as an antidote to

the caviar-drenched, truffle-infused upscale restaurants most commonly associated with Sin City. She spent more than a decade working at some of the Strip's fanciest venues, including the restaurant at the top of the ersatz Eiffel Tower.

At Eat, she's kept the linen napkins, but chucked the overheated menu descriptions and steep prices.

"There's enough Vegas in Vegas," she said, raising her voice a little to be heard above the buzz of a typically packed morning at Eat.



Try buttery cinnamon biscuits topped with berries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The menu is small, with a Southern accent, and it's closed for dinner. Breakfast offerings include buttery cinnamon biscuits served with berries piled on top, free-range eggs any way you like, and pillowy beignets with seasonal jam and mascarpone. For lunch, there are salads, sandwiches on thick toasted bread, shrimp and grits, and the best grilled cheese in town. There can be a two-hour wait for a table on weekends — though it's more

like 15 minutes on weekdays.

The place tends to be noisy, and that's by design. The ceilings are high, the tables are spread out, and there is no Wi-Fi, to encourage diners to interact with each other.

For locals, there's another major appeal: You can walk there. Other cities take for granted the ability to stroll from lunch to a store to a cafe, but until recently in Las Vegas, residents have been forced to choose between driving to strip malls or braving the sprawling indoor mall that is a modern casino.

Now, however, downtown Vegas is starting to cohere into the city's first traditional neighbourhood. Within the past 12 months, a critical mass of boutique restaurants has moved downtown, a novelty in an area long dominated by the Heart Attack Grill, where people who weigh over 350 pounds (about 160 kilos) eat free.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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How-to



Avoid pickpockets

Carry your wallet in a front pocket, with the opening facing down. 2. Be alert in busy areas. Pickpockets target train stations, bus stops, crowded street corners and street performances. 3. Be wary of diversions: If someone tries to get your attention or brushes up against you, make sure your hand is on your wallet. 4. Turn backpacks into frontpacks. 5. Carry handbags across your body or under your arm, with the flap facing your body. 6. "Snatch-and-grabs" are considered violent crimes. Just let them have it. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

Tool



Live your own Vegas movie

New app Suiteness sets you and your friends up for a Vegas weekend à la Hangover Part IV — or at very least for Facebook, in spite of the "stays in Vegas" adage. The app lets you book a high-roller, multi-bedroom suite with your buddies for the same prices you would pay for several regular rooms. You plug in your wants and needs (minus the bartender and the tiger) and Suiteness gets back to you within 24 hours with your options. Los Angeles, New York and Miami won't be far behind. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

Deals



Parrot Cay, Turks & Caicos

Sometimes you just owe it to yourself to amp up your vacation with a little extra indulgence. Special anniversary? Milestone birthday? Parrot Cay, the award-winning private-island retreat may be just the place to celebrate. There is amazing diving, a serene spa, wellness programs and very fussed-over food. From April 25 to Dec. 15, the resort is offering four nights for the price of three, seven nights for the price of five and 14 nights for the price of 10 (some blackout apply). Visit comohotels.com/parrotcay. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

More and more city folk are finding the purr-fect stress buster

Cat cafés. Felines feature first at this cosy London tea room

Would you like some kitten with your coffee?

Feline company is exactly what one of London's newest cafés is offering — and stressed-out city-dwellers are lapping it up.

"People do want to have pets and in tiny flats, you can't," said café owner Lauren Pears, who opened Lady Dinah's Cat Emporium last month in an area east of the city's financial district.

"There's not many places in London you can just curl up with a book and chill out with a cat or two on your lap," she said. "I think that's what our success is down to."

"I can see how this would be good for someone lacking company," said customer Sara Lewis, as she stroked a cat sitting on her lap. "It's the best idea ever."

The cosy English tea room, named after Alice's cat in Alice in Wonderland, charges customers £5 pounds (\$9.15) for two hours of kitty company. Coffee and afternoon tea — sandwiches, cakes and scones — are on the menu at an addi-



Cats and caffeine: Do you need anything else? THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tional cost.

Lady Dinah's opened March 1, and is fully booked until the end of June.

Pears raised more than £109,000 (\$200,000) through a crowd-funding campaign to get the café up and running. Despite more than a year of planning permission delays and figuring out how to maintain health and safety standards, she says the hard work has been worth it.

The 11 resident kitties were donated by people who could no longer look after them. Kitty welfare is paramount: The cats get regular breaks away from people, and staff have been trained by animal behaviourists to care for them.

Lisa Vann brought her 8-year-old daughter, who has learning difficulties, to Lady

Japanese origins

Cat cafés first took off 10 years ago in Japanese cities, where many people live alone in cramped high-rise apartment blocks that don't allow pets. Making feline friends became popular therapy for lonely or anxious workers.

Dinah's for a playdate. "She's delighted to be here," she said.

The animal café craze shows no signs of slowing, with establishments now open in London, Vienna and Paris. A dog café, House of Hounds, is scheduled to open in London later this year. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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How Polkaroo put me on the right career path

From host to the most.

As TalentEgg.com launches its exciting Challenges platform, one Egger tells her own tale of working toward greatness

LEAH RUEHLKE
TalentEgg.ca

When I was about 10 years old, I decided my goal in life was to be a TVO Kids host. Thirteen years, one university degree and 25 pairs of jeans later, this remained my life ambition.

So, after helplessly sending out resumé after resumé and putting in way too many hours into a job I couldn't care less about in order to pay those bills, I decided perhaps this was life's way of telling me to chase that dream.

I signed up to volunteer with TVO, and when they offered me a gig timing a ping-pong tournament with Polkaroo, I figured this was the breakthrough I had always been waiting for.

I went. I wore my bright green T-shirt with pride and ran that stopwatch like my life depended on it.

I smiled at people. I even talked to some — and in doing so I ended up meeting my current boss. Fast forward one year, and I'm happily employed in an industry I never thought I'd be in. I'm not a TVO Kids host — but in pursuing that dream my ambitions changed into something completely unexpected and even more exciting.

I now work somewhere that challenges me, inspires me and makes me think. And I owe it all to Polkaroo.

I also owe it all to allowing myself to stand out. That, to

Augmented Reality

Are you ready to take on Metro's AR Challenge?

If you're a student or recent grad, you know the Get Your First Job catch 22: No one wants to take a chance on you because you have no real world experience. And unless someone gives you a job, you can't gain that experience.

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The Challenge: Show us a compelling and innovative way Metro can use our new Augmented Reality (AR) technology to bridge the printed and digital worlds.

The Prize: A \$500 Future Shop gift certificate, and the chance to see your idea implemented, engaging 1.8 million readers in all 10 Metro papers from Halifax to Vancouver.

We're looking for the big idea that will resonate with our Millennial audience and will reflect the Metro brand personality: smart, urban, tech-savvy, opinionated and in-the-know.

Metro AR represents the first time a newspaper has developed a custom, native solution for bringing augmented reality to its product. What makes AR particularly interesting is that while it represents storytelling through the lens of mobile devices today, it is a precursor to how news and information will be distributed in the near future. That might be through wearables like Google Glass, via windshields on vehicles or perhaps another exciting iteration that has yet to come to market.

Metro's Challenge asks students to apply creative thinking to a new frontier in the publishing world. It's an opportunity for students and grads to showcase their ability to take concepts they've learned at school and bring

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see one of the amazing things you can do with Augmented Reality



them to bear on an exciting and evolving form of storytelling.

"The real reward lies in the feedback report that students receive as part of their participation, outlining their ranking and the competencies/skills gained through participation," says TalentEgg founder Lauren Friese about the contest. "This feedback can be used for personal improvement, but more significantly, can be added to participants' resumé and LinkedIn profiles as proof and validation of their ability to translate theory learned in the classroom to real scenarios."

For more information, visit talentegg.ca/challenges and get cracking! **METRO**

me, is exactly what Challenges is all about. I know the pain of the job hunt. It sucks.

For entire year I questioned everything; whether or not I pursued the right degree or if I wasn't as smart as I thought or if I had chosen to live in the wrong city; if people thought I

had a weak mind and flat hair and if I had only bought the more expensive blazer maybe the interviewer would've taken me more seriously.

I felt discouraged and sad and hopeless because at the end of the day I simply didn't know how to stand out.

Beating my employment challenge meant throwing myself at a dream I had cherished for more than a decade, not knowing what would happen.

Challenges offers that same potential, without all of the uncertainty that goes with it. It gives students and recent grads

What is TalentEgg Challenges?

TalentEgg Challenges will give young people the opportunity to demonstrate and verify their skills — helping them prove to employers that they have what it takes to be valuable employees.

- Students and grads can tackle relevant online Challenges presented in partnership with innovative brands and employers.

- After completing a Challenge, participants receive a review of the skills and experiences gained, which can easily be added directly to their resumé and LinkedIn profile. Top performers in each Challenge will also be eligible for a range of prizes.

Visit talentegg.ca/challenges for more details.

the chance to show that they are thought leaders, driven, willing to try something new and put their all into a project.

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TalentEgg #QuestionoftheDay:
Should every workplace have a casual Friday? Why (not)?

@joshuamwsimpson
no to casual Fridays ... we don't do business casually

@atiknab
I think so — it's the end of the week, and it gives the employees a bit of relaxation.

@I_Wamen
Studies suggest that casual Fridays decrease workplace productivity & a coworker once told me he doesn't feel productive in jeans

@suaviloquent
@I_Wamen extensive studies suggest that I personally am just as productive in jeans as I am in slacks ;)

@baikop
Definitely! If not client-facing or representing org in prof setting. Gr8 & easy way to thank team for a good week! @MMItweets



When your wardrobe relaxes does your attitude follow suit? ISTOCK

@EDSPowell wardrobes should match
Think of all the people who would be left out! Astronauts, athletes, arc welders ... that's just the letter A. #QuestionoftheDay

@annieyngo
Why not? Why should what we wear affect how we work? Hate thinking of outfits Mon-Thurs already!

@FerventEvents
Yes if in-line with company image! Nothing worse than seeing a company tryin to force an image it's really not. #QuestionoftheDay

@Shouldice
you can have it but I won't observe it, work isn't any more casual on Friday than it is on Tuesday

@lsquaredstyle
@Shouldice if they want have one & depends on the industry. I don't think it's a universal thing. Too many chances to mess up!

@sinaiders
YES! It usually has proceeds going towards charity, and is a good reward for employees

@mikerice
how casual are we talking? #pjfri-days

@saraherodrigues
Business casual every day, no casual Fridays



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A kick of heat for this meat

Orange Sriracha Maple Chicken Thighs with Spring Greens. Orange juice moonlights as a tenderizer in this dish



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

Looking for some spice in your life at dinner time? Well, Orange Sriracha Maple Chicken Thighs with Spring Greens might help you feed that craving.

These smoky and spicy chicken thighs are addictive with their balance of heat and sweet.

Chicken thighs are tender and offer up juiciness and flavour while being easy to prepare thanks to Florida orange juice, which helps add flavour and tenderize the chicken for a



This recipe makes eight servings. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CITRUS

deliciously moist bite every time.

The sweet hint of orange juice is paired with a spicy kick of sriracha chili sauce and local pure maple syrup,

making this a truly great introduction for spring that could become a quick favourite.

1. In a large resealable bag, combine orange juice, paprika, garlic, oregano, chili sauce and maple syrup. Add

chicken; seal bag and turn to massage chicken evenly. Refrigerate for at least one hour or up to overnight.

2. Place chicken on oiled, preheated grill over medium heat, turning once or twice for 10 to 15 minutes or until no longer pink inside and juices run clear.

3. Spring Green Toss: In a large bowl, toss greens with oil, vinegar, Florida orange juice, oregano, salt and pepper and serve with chicken.

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup (175 ml) orange juice
- 2 tsp (10 ml) smoked paprika
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano or 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped oregano
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) sriracha chili sauce
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) pure maple syrup
- 2 lbs (1 kg) boneless skinless chicken thighs (about 12)

Spring Green Toss

- 1 pkg (142 g) mixed spring greens
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) white wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) orange juice
- Pinch each dried oregano, salt, pepper

Cooking tips

- Orange juice is a staple in many homes and most often enjoyed at breakfast. But start thinking outside the box at the dinner table and add some orange juice to a sauce or dressing for flavour and enhancement. You

might just get a bit more creative each time you step into the kitchen.

- Trim any visible fat from chicken thighs before marinating.

- Sriracha has a big kick of heat, so for a milder version use only two tbsp (30 ml) of the sauce in the recipe. Look for it in the international aisle of your grocery store.

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Book that tee time for you and your Buds

The Lightning celebrate a goal scored on Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer on Tuesday night in Tampa. Ondrej Palat had two goals, Anders Lindback came off the bench to make 25 saves and the Lightning officially ended Toronto's playoff hopes with a 3-0 win. MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Melk Man delivers another cool splash

MLB. Cabrera goes yard for the 4th straight game, Navarro hits a pair of RBI doubles

Dioner Navarro had RBI doubles from each side of the plate and Melky Cabrera homered for the fourth consecutive game as the Toronto

On Tuesday

5

Blue Jays

2

Astros

Blue Jays defeated the Houston Astros 5-2 on Tuesday night.

Jose Bautista added his fourth home run of the season as Toronto (4-4) made a winner of veteran left-handed pitcher Mark Buehrle, who bent but didn't break over 5 1/3 innings in running his record to 2-0.

Four Toronto relievers held the Astros (3-5) to one run and one hit over 3 2/3 innings as Houston had base-runners in each of the first eight innings but went 0-for-14 with runners

in scoring position.

Houston outlit the Blue Jays 9-5.

Sergio Santos struck out the side in the ninth for his third save.

With his first-inning home run, Bautista, who led the Majors in home runs in both 2010 and 2011, has reached base safely in all eight Blue Jays' games this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Valanciunas to play in next game despite DUI charge

They called it a serious mistake that Jonas Valanciunas must learn from. But otherwise the Toronto Raptors players and staff are standing behind their starting centre after he was charged with drunk driving.

The 21-year-old apologized to his teammates, and will play in Wednesday's game against the visiting Philadelphia 76ers, but news of his arrest drew a large contingent of media to practice on Tuesday and negative attention to a team bound for the playoffs.

"As an organization, it's not something we take lightly, it's not something I feel we are just going to brush aside," Raptors GM Masai Ujiri said. (But) he's a young kid ... I look at all of you here and I wonder what we were all doing when we were 21, so there are mistakes that are made."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Rays' All-Star lefty tossed on DL

Left-hander Matt Moore has been placed on the 15-day disabled list by the Tampa Bay Rays because of an elbow injury.

Moore left in the fifth inning of Monday's 4-2 loss after feeling discomfort in his elbow.

Rays general manager Andrew Friedman said an MRI exam on Tuesday of Moore's elbow "is inconclusive" and the All-Star would see Dr. Andrews in the next two days for "a more thorough exam."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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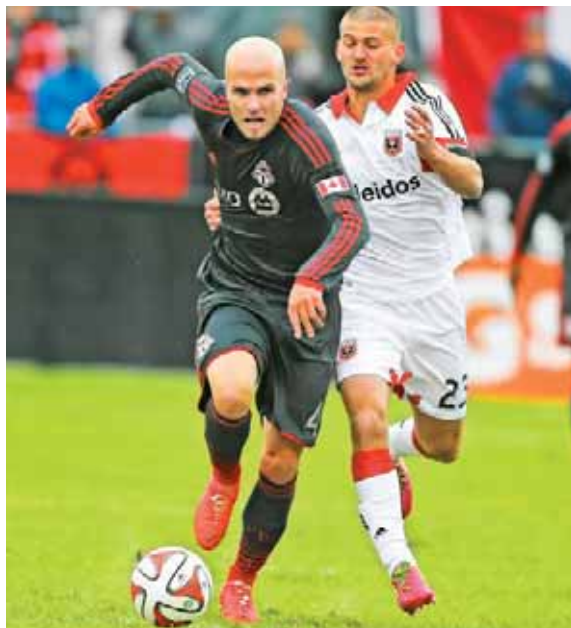
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Midfielder Bradley latest TFC star to be put 'on ice'



Dominant Toronto FC midfielder Michael Bradley, left, skipped practice on Tuesday to nurse "a couple of little strains." RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLS. Toronto could be missing key players in return to BMO Field

The injury list keeps growing for Toronto FC, and manager Ryan Nelsen says management has to make changes next year.

Striker Jermain Defoe, defender Doneil Henry and midfielders Michael Bradley and Jonathan Osorio were just some of the players who missed practice Tuesday. Midfielders Dwayne De Rosario, Alvaro Rey and Kyle Bekker are also hurting ahead of this weekend's visit by the Colorado Rapids.

"Just name the healthy ones."

Jones-ing for some grass

"Hopefully once we get out on the grass it will be a lot easier for the guys."

TFC coach Ryan Nelsen

It's a lot quicker," Nelsen joked after practice Tuesday.

On a more serious note, he confessed: "There's a chance that quite a few might miss (Saturday's game)."

That includes the influential Bradley, who is nursing a "couple of little strains" after a week that included games for both the U.S. and Toronto.

"We're just putting him on ice," Nelsen said.

A severe winter that has kept the MLS team practising on artificial turf under a bubble has been part of the problem.

Three of Toronto's four games have been away, with one on Seattle's artificial turf and another at altitude in Salt Lake City. The one home game was played on a grass surface ravaged by winter.

"It takes it out (of you)," said Nelsen. "We've learned a lot of lessons over this, the staff. In hindsight, would we do some things differently? I definitely would."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Champions League

Chelsea stuns PSG in London

Chelsea overturned a two-goal deficit against Paris Saint-Germain to squeeze into the Champions League semifinals on Tuesday, with Demba Ba scoring against his hometown club in a 2-0 victory that sent his side through on away goals.

It took substitute Ba to grab the scruffy but crucial goal in the 87th minute to secure the 3-3 aggregate result. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Real Madrid into semis despite loss

Real Madrid reached the semifinals of the Champions League on Tuesday after losing 2-0 at Borussia Dortmund but finishing up with a 3-2 win on aggregate.

Playing without star striker Cristiano Ronaldo due to a left-knee injury, Madrid could afford to miss an early penalty and still go through against last season's runner-up thanks to its 3-0 home win in the first leg last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Canucks fans get their way

Less than three years after leading the Vancouver Canucks to within a game of the Stanley Cup, Mike Gillis is out of a job. The club fired its president and general manager on Tuesday, just 14 hours after the team was eliminated from playoff contention in a listless 3-0 loss to Anaheim that had fans chanting "Fire Gillis" in the game's dying minutes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



The Vancouver Canucks fired their president and general manager Mike Gillis on Tuesday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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2014 BMW 2-series Coupé

• **Type.** Two-door, rear-wheel drive four-passenger coupe

• **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (241); 3.0-litre DOHC I6, turbocharged (320)

• **Transmissions.** 8-speed automatic; 6-speed manual (opt.)

• **Base price (incl. destination).** \$38,100

Design

Although similar to the outgoing 1-series coupe, the 2-series is actually more than five centimetres longer, 2.5 centimetres wider and it has a bit more space between the front and rear wheels. Thankfully, the dimensional enlargements are minimal, but the revised shape of the 2-series, especially a more elongated nose, sloping roofline and rear deck, result



in a more attractive shape. For diehard BMW spotters, the larger grille and lower air intakes are the most noticeable ways to tell if the basic Bimmer you're checking out is a 2 or a 1.

Fuel consumption

If fuel consumption is a consideration, the 228i is rated at 8.7 l/100 km in the city and 5.4 on the highway (improved from 10.8/7.0 for the 128i). The M235i's numbers are 10.0 city and 6.4 highway. Note that both models require premium fuel.

Basic features

Just because the 228i is the base 2-series doesn't mean it's stripped-down. Base equipment includes climate control, auto stop/start function, multi-adjustable (non-power) front seats, rain-sensing windshield wipers and a premium audio system.

2015 BMW 2-series Coupé

Review. BMW goes back to its roots to refine and redefine the concept of a pure sporting machine

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

BMW knows exactly how to position the new 2-series Coupé.

A photo on the automaker's website shows the car running neck and neck with the iconic 2002 coupe that was produced from 1968-'76. It's a comparison worth pondering as the 2002 was a benchmark sporty car, a pure one at that, for the company. An even more interesting comparison is with the new 2014 4-series Coupé. Both models offer the same powertrains, but the 2-series base price is \$8,900 cheaper, at \$38,100. The smaller 2-series is also about 90 kilograms lighter, which should make it quicker off the line and more nimble.

The 4-series does offer more cabin space than the 2-series and the 4 can be had with BMW's xDrive all-wheel drive system that's ideal for anyone making frequent excursions to the ski slopes.



Still, driving enthusiasts on a budget or who those prefer a more minimalist approach to tackling twisty back roads are likely to find the 2-series fits their needs like a well-worn pair of driving gloves.

For stashing your gear, the trunk is slightly larger than that of the 1-series and the back seat can be split-folded for extra space.

Under the hood of the base 228i is a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder that makes 241 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. It's the same engine that powers several other BMW models, including the base 4-series Coupé. The base engine in the 1-series was a non-turbo 230-horsepower four-cylinder.

Step up to the M235i Coupé and your right foot controls

a turbocharged 3.0-litre six-cylinder engine with 320 horsepower and 330 pound-feet of torque.

Ultimately, what's neat about the 2-series is that it's the least expensive way to obtain a BMW, yet you're guaranteed to get the same kick for your money as with many of the company's pricier products. Talk about driving a bargain.

Compare



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Solidly built, with a choice of two turbo engines. AWD comes standard.



2 Mercedes-Benz CLA
Base price: \$36,400
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3 Honda Accord Coupe
Base price: \$28,200. Cool two-door is affordable, even with optional 278-hp V6.

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The grass is said to always be greener on the other side of the fence, but when it comes to luring new car buyers into an ultra-competitive market, meaner has become much more fashionable than greener. In a tactical about-face from what vehicle manufacturers used during the auto-show season last year, ecology and efficiency are being muscled out in favour of handling and horsepower. Following are a few of the more notable trends from the 2014 auto-show season that have made many industry rivals green with envy.

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

Show stoppers

Body by Alcoa

Even with dozens of exciting vehicle debuts such as the macho Corvette Z06 and the racy Toyota FT-1 concept during this year's auto-show season, one trusty pick-up truck has gained the most attention after being unwrapped in January during the Detroit Auto Show.

With its all-aluminum body construction, the Ford F-150 shed about 300 kilograms — lighter means fuel savings — and changed the design game in this vehicle segment. The best-selling truck in America during the last three decades, the F-150 keeps the traditional steel platform, but the lighter body weight and improved fuel mileage are grabbing serious attention from every other North American truck maker.

Details remain under wraps, but The Wall Street Journal reported that General Motors has secured contracts with aluminum suppliers Alcoa and Novelis for construction of its own aluminum-bodied trucks. From a practical standpoint, the Detroit launch of the Ford F-150 will likely remain the most important vehicle debut of the auto show season.



Ford has reset the bar by making the body of the 2015 F-150 out of aluminum. Now others will be forced into it to remain competitive.
ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Another alternative

In a move that adds momentum to a fledgling alternative fuel option, Hyundai used the Los Angeles Auto Show in November 2013 to introduce its 2015 Tucson Fuel Cell vehicle, which is a hydrogen-powered tall wagon set for release in North America this spring. Honda and Toyota also showcased their production-ready fuel-cell rides in L.A.

These clean-running vehicles convert hydrogen to electricity to power the vehicle. Heat and water vapour are the only emissions.

Fuel-cell technology isn't necessarily new; Hyundai already sells Tucson's inspiration — the hydrogen-powered ix35 — outside of North America.

"We really think this will make battery electric vehicles feel old-fashioned," said former Hyundai CEO John Krafcik, pointing out that a fuel cell can be fully loaded with hydrogen in about eight minutes for a 500-kilometre range. A battery-electric can take hours to charge. As additional incentive to potential buyers, Hyundai is offering unlimited and free hydrogen to its Tucson lessees. But given the limited number of hydrogen fuelling stations, Tucson will only be sold in the Los Angeles, Calif., area initially, where the greatest concentration of hydrogen refuelling sites exists.



Hyundai will give you free hydrogen if you opt for its fuel-cell Tucson. You need to live in the L.A. area, though.

Techtrend

Apple Inc. used the Geneva, Switzerland, Motor Show in March to unveil its CarPlay iPhone interface system that has created a technological buzz from car builders around the world.

Mercedes-Benz, Ferrari and Volvo were just three of the manufacturers at the show to demonstrate this new interactive system that some analysts project will become practically standard equipment in many models beginning this year.

Essentially, the CarPlay interface replicates the iPhone home screen on the vehicle's centre console display. Once iPhone is connected, a button on the steering wheel activates the Siri voice-recognition technology, allowing drivers to access contacts, make calls, check voice mail, have text messages read aloud and then dictate responses, all without taking your hands off the wheel or eyes off the road.

CarPlay also includes its voice-activated turn-by-turn Apple Maps navigation system that even suggests possible destinations based on phone conversations and text messages.

This system will work with iPhone 5s, iPhone 5c and iPhone 5 and will be available in select car models shipping in 2014.



If it looks like your iPhone took over your car, then you understand what CarPlay is.

Driver-free driving

While Ford was improving its existing truck line, Nissan had its vision set on the future, using the stages of the Tokyo Motor Show late last year to celebrate its autonomous-vehicle technology.

If Nissan's projections hold up, the Japanese automaker hopes to introduce its self-driving Leaf EV in North America "at realistic prices" in 2020.

Nissan put its autonomous vehicle through an uneventful test drive in Tokyo. This car is capable of negotiating turns, manoeuvring lane changes, recognizing stop signs and handling traffic signals, all without a driver at the wheel.

And while clearing the legalities of a self-driving vehicle navigating North American roadways remains years away, Nissan's lead in autonomous technology will continue to grab the attention of rival builders. "We're not necessarily talking about a situation where you get on the road, push a button and go to sleep," Nissan product chief Andy Palmer explained. "To me, it's about safety and instances where the vehicle supersedes the driver's control. If the objective is zero emissions, zero fatalities, the only way that can be achieved is with autonomous cars."



Nissan believes that if the objective is zero emissions and zero fatalities that autonomous driving — where cars take over from humans — is the way to go.

Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

A rock-solid Ferrari

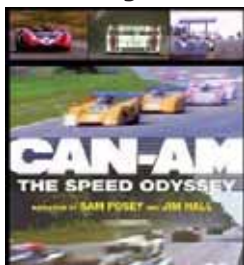


For auto enthusiasts who enjoy the finer things in life and for whom cost is not an issue, this objet d'art is a must-have. Stonework specialist Lapidica of London, England, has created this remarkable 1:3.6-scale sculpture of a 1962-'63 Ferrari GTO from a solid block of Italian Arabescato marble. The GTO's exact shape was created by using the latest in 3D scanners plus Lapidica's CNC shaping mill with its diamond-tipped drills. The entire process took more than 100 hours to complete, followed by several days of hand finishing. The finished product is more than a metre long and weighs, uhhhh, a lot. This one-of-a-kind marble Ferrari sells for 30,000 euro, or about \$45,000. Find out more at lapidica.com.

Reliving Can-Am racing

Those who were lucky enough to attend any of the Can-Am Challenge Cup races, or Can-Am, as they were simply called, will never forget

the absolute raw thundering power that these unlimited, no-rules race cars generated. Can-Am brought together the top drivers from around the world, who wrestled these machines around North America's most demanding tracks. Now you can relive those heady times from 1966-'73 with Can-Am, The Speed Odyssey. The DVD is narrated by former drivers Sam Posey and Jim Hall, who built and raced Hall's Chevrolet-powered Chaparral in the series. The 95-minute film features interviews with the participants along with plenty of archival action footage. You can order a copy for \$33 US at canam-film.com.



Fix a flat fast

A flat tire can be annoying, but when it happens in the middle of nowhere it can spell trouble. A tire-repair kit from BlackJack can save your bacon and get you back on the road. The company's latest Kt-340 kit provides everything you need for extracting whatever caused the flat, be it a nail, screwdriver, or glass, etc. Also included are the special probes, needles and wrenches for "dressing" the puncture and sealing it with the repair material (the BlackJack tire instructional video shows you the entire process). Don't forget you'll need to keep a portable air compressor in your car to reinflate the tire. You can see and order this kit, which sells for \$63 US, along with the



complete line of BlackJack tire-repair products at blackjack-tirerepair.com.

Pick up the ideal wheel

A cool steering wheel is an important item for any classic hot rod or muscle car. You'll find some of the coolest at Grant Products International, including the company's line of 14-inch Collector's Edition wooden wheels. The spokes are made of machined and polished aluminum, while the rim is made of hand-rubbed mahogany. Prices start in the \$300-\$450 US range, but you'll need to add another \$35 to obtain the necessary installation kit. If wood isn't your thing, Grant can hook you up with a Collector's Edition wheel in black or grey stitched leather. Shop and buy at grantproducts.com.



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Super Mario kids kart

If you have children or grandchildren who play video games, you know they will love this gift. Toys "R" Us has become the exclusive retailer for the actual ride-on version of Nintendo's Super Mario Kart from Jakks Pacific, which also produces a variety of officially licensed products for Nintendo. The brightly coloured single-passenger vehicle reproduces sound effects from the Mario Kart video game series, so it's sure to drive parents crazy. Both indoor and outdoor tires are also supplied so kids up to 31 kilograms can drive it anywhere (a six-volt battery supplies low-speed power). Super Mario Kart is priced at \$70 US and can be ordered directly through Toys "R" Us at the store or online at toysrus.com.



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416-444-4269

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1-866-633-3269

Serpa BMW
87 Mulock Drive,
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1-866-436-8700

European models shown. Features and equipment may vary in Canada. Total selling price for a 2014 BMW 328i xDrive All-Wheel Drive Sedan is \$48,818, which includes MSRP (\$46,200), freight and PDI (up to \$2,095), dealer administration fee (\$395), A/C levy (\$100), OMVIC (\$5), and tire stewardship fee (\$23.36). Retailers are free to set individual prices and charge administration fees, which may change the APR or the price of the vehicle. *Lease offers based on select new 2014 BMW models available only through BMW Financial Services Canada on approved credit (OAC). Lease example based on selling price of a 2014 BMW 328i xDrive All-Wheel Drive Sedan base model: \$48,818 at 0.9% APR for 36 months. Monthly payment is \$498 with down payment or trade equivalent of \$5,500. Freight and PDI (up to \$2,095), dealer administration fee (\$395), A/C levy (\$100), OMVIC (\$5), and tire stewardship fee (\$23.36) are due on signing. PPSA (\$55.40), licensing, registration, and applicable taxes are extra. First month's lease payment and security deposit of one month's payment are due at lease inception. The residual value of the vehicle at the end of the term is \$26,334. Annual kilometres limited to 16,000; \$0.15 per excess kilometre. Offer expires April 30, 2014. Delivery must be taken by April 30, 2014. Offer requires Retailer participation. Offer is subject to availability and may be cancelled or changed without notice. Certain conditions apply. See your local BMW Retailer or bmw.ca for full details. ©2014 BMW Canada Inc. "BMW", the BMW logo, BMW model designations and all other BMW related marks, images and symbols are the exclusive properties and/or trademarks of BMW AG, used under licence.

The case for (and against) convertibles

To drive or not to drive. Sure, you get to feel the sun on your face, but everyone's judging the music you're playing



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

There are a surprising number of things in this life that are love-hate. For me, the classic example is boxer underwear.

When working as designed, boxers are brilliant and you feel free and easy with the world. When boxers are bunched up, you feel pain and question your place in an uncaring world.

When it comes to love-hate things in the automotive realm, the convertible is tops.

In the right circumstances, there is no more joyful vehicle.



You look pretty marvellous in a convertible — except for your wind-burned face and crazy hair. COURTESY CHEVROLET

The case for...

We hardly need to go over why convertibles can be so intoxicating. Sunshine on your face (vitamin D)!

Wind in your hair. A more thorough audio connection with the tune and joyful noises coming out of your exhaust and from the insides

of your engine. More interaction with the cityscape or countryside you're cruising through. You look marvellous behind the wheel.

The case against...

But let's cut it off there, because I find it more interesting to dwell on the painful aspects of owning a convertible. Don't get me wrong. I've owned convertibles in the past and loved them, and since the weather turned this weekend, spent more than a little time on Kijiji and Craigslist and Autotrader.ca perusing the ads for both modern and vintage convertibles. It's just that whole convertible experience is touch and go, at least for me.

I'm not saying I have sensitive skin, but after a few hours driving with the top down in the sun, my face looks like I've shaved with a blowtorch. And the hair ... On some people windswept hair looks marvellous. For some reason, however, the wind likes to tousle my hair in a style not normally associated with humans.

I know, just wear a hat. But if you're not a hat person, you tend to end up wearing any lousy hat that's lying around, and that goes against the too-cool-for-school vibe

of the convertible.

And if you're not an extrovert, a convertible might not be for you either, as the driver of one is definitely "on display." That doesn't worry me so much as when you pull up to an intersection, with people waiting for transit, and you sense some are judging you on what type of music is blaring out of the stereo. So what if I like a bit of early Madonna between my Bill Frisell and Arcade Fire?

Driving in a convertible in heavy traffic, especially on the highway, can also be an exercise in noise and smell tolerance.

A convertible, top up or top down, is also not as aerodynamic as a hardtop, and while lots of convertibles now have pop-up roll bars, lots don't. Flip the car over and you're going to have a headache.

The verdict...

We rule in favour of the convertible. A little bit of pain, now and then. A whole lot of fun when the timing is right.

You're ready for a road trip, but is your car?

You've got your tunes, you've packed snacks and you've programmed the GPS. You might be road-trip ready, but after battling the winter weather, is your vehicle?

During the warmer months, we tend to spend more time in our cars. According to Statistics Canada, drivers average 86.7 billion kilometres between July and September, the busiest quarter of the year. So it's not difficult to see that getting your car ready for these summer conditions is crucial for accident prevention and optimal fuel economy.

"Most of us take steps to prepare our cars for winter, but

doing the same for summer driving is just as critical," said Mauro Convertini, an insurance expert from Aviva Canada. "Before embarking on a road trip, drivers should take a few moments to make sure their car is ready to roam the summer streets."

Convertini recommends the following:

- **Check your tires:** Use all-season tires and maintain your tire pressure, as both will improve your vehicle's fuel economy in warmer weather.
- **Get rain ready:** Replace your windshield wipers, which may be cracked or torn from ice, snow, salt and extreme temperatures.

Quoted

"Drivers should take a few minutes to make sure their car is ready to roam the summer streets."

Mauro Convertini, insurance expert with Aviva Canada

atures.

- **Check air conditioning:** There's nothing worse than losing your air conditioning on a hot sunny day. You could have an issue if it can't produce or preserve temperatures that are 10 degrees Celsius below the outside air.

• **Cool your car:** Sitting in traffic on a hot day is tough on your car's cooling system. Ask your mechanic to check your coolant levels at the start of the season.

• **Fight salt damage:** Replacing a salt-clogged air filter gets you more kilometres per litre.

With these tips in mind, you will be ready for your next road adventure. More information is available from your insurance broker or online at avivacanada.com.

NEWS CANADA



After months of winter, your car may not be ready for a long drive. NEWS CANADA

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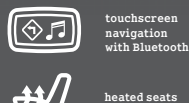
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Fraudsters may cut in front of drivers and slam on the brakes to cause a rear-end crash. COURTESY INSURANCE BUREAU OF CANADA

Suspect a staged crash? Maybe it was all a fraud

Insurance fraud.

Crash scams usually orchestrated by organized crime where everyone involved gets a kickback

JIL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

You're waiting to make a left-hand turn, but a driver stops and waves you through. As you turn in front of him, he rams into you — and later tells the police he did no such thing.

It's a classic scenario for auto insurance fraud, a crime that rakes in billions of dollars each year from insurance companies and innocent victims across the country.

It's primarily perpetrated by organized crime, according to Rick Dubin, vice-president of investigative services for the Insurance Bureau of Canada. "They intentionally set up a collision and load up the vehicle with individuals so that when it's done, they haven't suffered any injury, but they all end up going to medical clinics claiming they're injured in order to receive benefits," he says.

Along with waving cars through on a turn, these criminals may also motion drivers to pull out of their spots in parking lots and then hit them, or cut in front of drivers and slam on the brakes to cause a rear-end crash. These

Facts and tips

It's estimated that auto insurance fraud is as much as \$1.6 billion per year in Ontario alone.

- The Greater Toronto Area has the highest number of staged collisions in Canada.
- Don't admit guilt or sign anything for the other driver if you're involved in any collision.

collisions then look like they were the victim's fault.

Clues that you're a target include drivers who want to call emergency vehicles, especially an ambulance, for a minor crash; passengers who complain of neck or back injuries when paramedics show up; drivers with older cars whose insurance was recently issued; "witnesses" who suddenly show up in remote areas; and tow truck drivers who respond almost immediately and offer to take your car to a specific body shop.

That shop may then damage your car even more to increase the bill, or charge your insurance company for work it didn't do, Dubin says. Meanwhile, the passengers will visit doctors who are in on the scam, and recommend unnecessary treatments for which your insurance company will pay. "We have identified well over 300 clinics throughout the Greater Toronto Area that we suspect insurance fraud is taking place," Dubin says.

Meanwhile, the organized crime ring gets a kickback from everyone involved, including the tow truck, body shop, and clinics.

If you suspect a collision is staged, Dubin says to call the police to the scene even if the crash is minor. Call your insurance company as soon as possible and alert them.

They can recommend trusted body shops to repair your vehicle. If you suspect insurance fraud at any time, you can call anonymously to 1-877-IBC-TIPS or your local Crime Stoppers.

Scammers

"They intentionally set up a collision and load up the vehicle with individuals so that when it's done, they haven't suffered any injury, but they all end up going to medical clinics claiming they're injured in order to receive benefits."

Rick Dubin, vice-president of Investigative Services for the Insurance Bureau of Canada



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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. [†]Based on a 60/48/48 month lease for 2014 Chevrolet (Cruze LTZ ISA/Cruze LT Turbo ISA+M8/Equinox LS FWD 1LS). Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km. \$0.16 per excess kilometre. OAC by GM Financial. Monthly/Bi-Weekly payments may vary depending on down payment/trade. A down payment or trade of \$0/\$995/\$2,079 and/or \$0 security deposit is required. Total obligation is \$11,026/\$11,324/\$16,585. Option to purchase at lease end is \$6,510/\$9,511/\$11,230. Excess wear and tear and km charges not included. Other lease options available. ^{††}Freight & PDI \$1,600/\$1,600/\$1,600, registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2014 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ^ΔBluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ^ΔVisit onstar.ca for coverage map, details and system limitations. Services vary by model and conditions. ^ΔBased on WardsAuto.com 2012 Upper Small segment, excluding Hybrid and Diesel powertrains. Standard 10 airbags ABS, traction control and StabiliTrak[®]. ^ΔThe Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ^ΔComparison based on 2013 Polk segmentation: Compact SUV and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. ^Δ2014 Chevrolet Equinox FWD equipped with standard 2.4L ECOTEC[®] I-4 engine. Comparison based on Natural Resources Canada's 2014 Fuel Consumption Guide. ^Δ2014 Equinox 2LT equipped with the True North Edition are eligible to receive an \$800 MSRP credit equal to the MSRP of the Perforated Leather Seating Option (AFU/AFN/AFM). Factory order or dealer trade may be required. Offer available to units purchased/delivered from March 1 to April 30, 2014. ^Δ2014 Cruze equipped with standard 1.4L Ecotec engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. 2014 Equinox equipped with standard 2.4L Ecotec engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. Fuel consumption based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ^{†††}2014 Cruze LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies \$28,489. 2014 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies \$37,535. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ^{††††}Based on GM testing in accordance with Government of Canada test methods. ^{†††††}Offers valid for delivery dates between March 1st and April 30th, 2014; participating lenders are subject to change. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank or RBC Royal Bank for up to 84 months on an eligible new or demonstrator 2014 Chevrolet Cruze, Sonic, Camaro (excludes Z28), Silverado HD 2500/3500, Tahoe and Suburban. Terms vary by model. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: 2014 Chevrolet Cruze LTZ MSRP including freight, PDI & levies is \$17,639 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is \$209.99 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0. Total obligation is \$17,639, plus applicable taxes. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and dealer fees not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Offers apply to qualified retail customers only. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ^{††††††}Retail and basic fleet customers who purchase or lease an eligible Chevrolet, Buick or GMC delivered from dealer stock between March 1, 2014 and April 30, 2014 will receive one 40¢ savings per litre fuel card (fuel savings card) upon payment of an additional \$0.01. Cards valid as of 72 hours after delivery. 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See dealer for details. ^{††††††††}Offer valid from April 1, 2014 to April 30, 2014 (the "Program Period") to retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing a 1999 or newer eligible vehicle that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six months, will receive a \$750 Spring Bonus credit towards the lease, purchase or finance of an eligible new 2013/2014 Chevrolet, Buick, GMC model; or a \$1,000 Spring Bonus credit towards the purchase, lease or finance of any 2013/2014 Cadillac model delivered during the Program Period. Retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing a 1999 or newer eligible pickup truck that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six months, will receive a \$1,000 Spring Bonus credit towards the lease or finance of an eligible 2013/2014 Chevrolet Silverado, Avalanche, GMC Sierra, or a \$2,000 Spring Bonus credit towards the cash purchase of an eligible 2013/2014 Chevrolet Silverado, Avalanche, GMC Sierra. Retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing a 1999 or newer eligible Pontiac, Saturn, Saab, Oldsmobile, Cobalt and HHR that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six months, will receive \$1,500 Spring Bonus credit towards the lease, purchase or finance of an eligible new 2013/2014 Chevrolet, Buick, GMC model; or a \$2,000 Spring Bonus credit towards the lease, purchase or finance of an eligible 2013/2014 Cadillac model delivered during the Program Period. Only one (1) credit may be applied per eligible vehicle sale. Offer is transferable to a family member living in the same household (proof of address required). This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. The \$750/\$1,000/\$1,500/\$2,000 credit includes GST/HST/QST/PST as applicable by province. 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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you want a straight answer to a simple question, you may be disappointed. Others are so evasive today. Maybe they have something to hide but more likely their thoughts are simply all over the place.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Make sure you keep track of where your money is coming from and, just as importantly, where it is going to, over the next few days. Someone may conveniently "forget" what they owe you.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Some people may be loud in their opposition to what you intend to do but don't let it worry or stop you. They will come round when they see how well you are doing.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Don't push yourself beyond your natural limits today. You may want to look good, but how good will it look if you collapse before the finishing line? Pace yourself.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Others may have doubts about what you are doing but you have no doubts at all and will push ahead regardless. The Sun in Aries endows you with loads of energy and almost limitless self-belief.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If someone is critical of your work today, don't let it get to you. Either they don't know what they are talking about or they are trying to make a small flaw or failing look much bigger than it actually is.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Whatever happens today, try not to take it too seriously. Others may think it's the end of the world, but you know it's nowhere near as dramatic as that. It's life, that's all.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Focus on what seems right to you and ignore what the so-called "experts" tell you. Ultimately there is no such thing as facts. There are only various shades of opinion. Yours deserve to be heard.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

The more certain people say you have taken on too much, the more determined you will be to prove them wrong. Sagittarius is a sign that likes to do things in a big way.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Steer clear of negative thoughts because once they have got their hooks in you, it will take a lot of work to break free. Everything will work out for the best in the end.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If you want a creative endeavor to be a success, you are going to need help and this is a good time to ask. Others want to be on your team because they know it's the one most likely to win.

Pisces

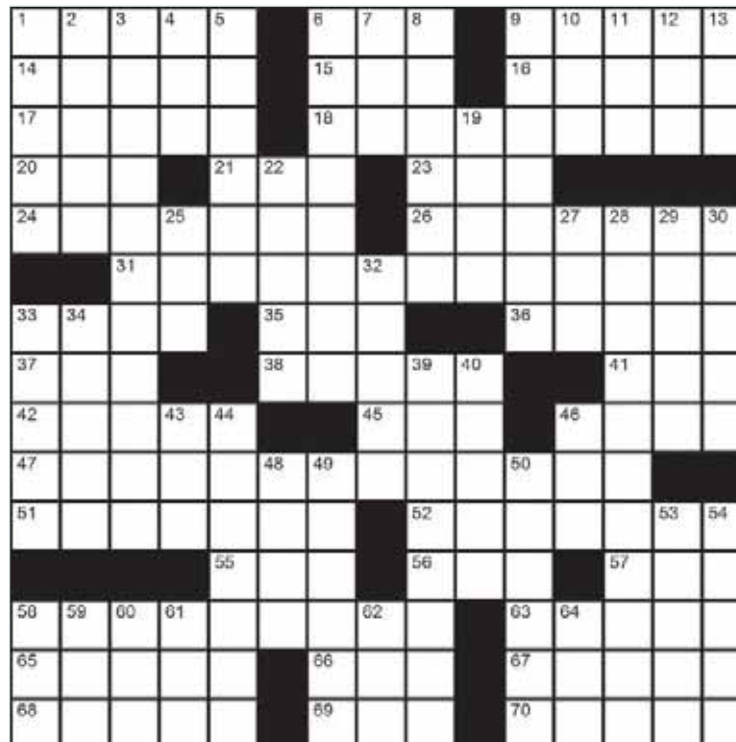
Feb. 20 - March 20

If someone changes their plans at the last moment today, don't let it show that you're not happy. Breathe deeply, count to 20, then give them a big smile and say "no problem". And never trust them again. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

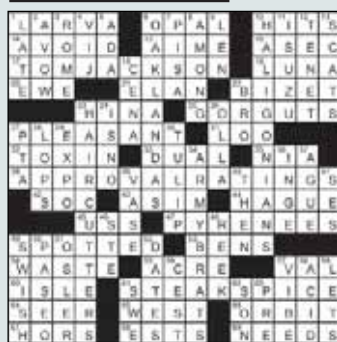
1. Packed into boxes
6. Goat's bleat
9. Art object
14. Quick
15. Alphabetic trio
16. Best
17. Grief [var. sp.]
18. In a not-one-side-over-the-other way
20. Earlier, olde-style
21. Shopping estab.
23. Sinn Fein was its political arm, for short
24. "Soul Sacrifice" band
26. Ontario town; or, Ms. Lohan
31. Orca-viewing village on Vancouver Island that's about four-and-a-half hours north of Nanaimo: 2 wds.
33. Scoop
35. Him, in Hull
36. Ghana's capital
37. Masses, with Polloi
38. Resulted in, ___ to
41. ' ' for Iberville
42. Mr. Guthrie's
45. ___ whim: 2 wds.
46. Freeze
47. Trendy (and bloody) new skincare procedure in a cosmetic surgery clinic: 2 wds.
51. Heart
52. Feminine and masculine
55. Long-snouted fish
56. Clairvoyance, e.g.
57. Sight: French
58. Exactness
63. "___ my case." (There's nothing more to add)
65. Plains prey
66. Keyboard key



Down

1. Pl. suffix with 'Motor'
2. Ancient shopping locale
3. Fare for Canada's Mary Pickford (b.1892 - d.1979): 2 wds.
4. Brit band
5. Of the skin
6. Romeo's family, House of ___
7. Copy
8. 'Eagle' constellation where Altair shines
9. Flesh-chomping fish

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	6	2	8	9	3	7	1
9	1	3	4	5	7	6	8	2
8	7	2	3	1	6	4	9	5
6	3	5	1	9	2	8	4	7
4	9	1	7	6	8	5	2	3
2	8	7	5	3	4	9	1	6
3	2	8	6	4	1	7	5	9
7	5	4	9	2	3	1	6	8
1	6	9	8	7	5	2	3	4

				6	8	4		
3		7	1		6			
				9				
4						9	2	
5	8		3	2		7	6	
6	1							4
				6				
		6			3	2		7
	5	8	9					

Today



Thursday



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M1P 2R2, Near Lone Tai Supermarket
(Kennedy & Lawrence) Inside "Smoke & Gift"



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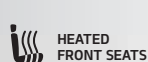


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Sportage SX Luxury shown⁺
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hwy / city 100km⁺
8.7L/11.8L

THROWBACK PRICING
WAS ~~\$164~~ **\$129[∞]** **\$0 DOWN.**
BI-WEEKLY for the first 15 MONTHS.
0.99% financing
6-SPEED AUTOMATIC

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. \$129 bi-weekly payments include \$1,120 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2015 Sorento 2.4L LX AT FWD (SR75BF), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to \$164. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.*

THE NEW 2014 SPORTAGE

hwy / city 100km⁺
7.0L/10.0L

THROWBACK PRICING
WAS ~~\$136~~ **\$89[∞]** **\$0 DOWN.**
BI-WEEKLY for the first 15 MONTHS.
0% financing
6-SPEED MANUAL

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. \$89 bi-weekly payments include \$1,504 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to \$136. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.*

OFFER ENDS APRIL 30TH

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The Power to Surprise

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